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# REDEFINING TOURISM IN UGANDA: Promoting Green tourism policies

Tourism is a key driver in poverty reduction through job creation, generation of foreign earnings and provision of livelihoods to a significant proportion of the population in Uganda.

Tourism has, in the recent past, doubled with the contribution to the economy estimated at 9 per cent of GDP with up to 23.5 per cent of the foreign exchange earnings.

The Uganda Tourism Act was enacted in 2008 to provide, among others, the legal framework to guide the development of the tourism sector. Development of the sector is also recognized in Vision 2040 and the National Development Plans.

## POLICY FRAMEWORK TO GREENING TOURISM IN UGANDA

The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA) with support from SWITCH Africa Green Programme, implements a project on “Sustainable Tourism and Green Development Practices in Uganda”. The project has developed principles for sustainable tourism in Uganda that include:

- ▶ Benchmarking and analytical studies report
- ▶ A draft Sustainable Tourism bill,
- ▶ 5 sets of Guidelines and regulations for operationalizing the bill to promote green and sustainable tourism:
  - Guideline for greening the tourism associations
  - Guideline for greening the tourism enterprises
  - Regulatory Implementation Guideline for Registration, Licensing and Operations of Tourism enterprises (Operations of Tourist Vehicles and, Tourist Accommodation)
  - Regulatory Implementation Guideline for Hotel Classifications and Grading
  - Regulatory Implementation Guideline for Tour Guides



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## ★ Policy Recommendations to provide an enabling environment for sustainable tourism ★

- ▶ Harmonize the relevant policies, codes of practice and legislation in Uganda
- ▶ Streamline the roles of public and private tourism sector stakeholders to improve coordination and effective implementation
- ▶ Establish Tourism Impact Assessments' guidelines to determine the effect of tourism activities on the environment
- ▶ Establish a tourism sector tribunal to efficiently address regulatory and related appeals
- ▶ Provide for an agreeable tourism levy and harmonized licensing framework that ensures sustainable tourism financing for promotion and marketing, skills development, quality assurance and conservation of natural and cultural heritage
- ▶ Develop regulations to operationalize a green tourism fund
- ▶ Provide for criteria to recognize private sector associations

SWITCH Africa Green is funded by the European Union and provides policy support to Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in their transition to an inclusive green economy. The programme provides financial and technical support for the development of policy frameworks that support the greening of four key sectors: agriculture, integrated waste management, manufacturing and tourism.